



March 11, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 18

Endeavour embarks on record-breaking shuttle flight



◆ Mission Update:

Space shuttle Endeavour emblazoned the night sky with the on-time launch of its STS-123 mission. Liftoff was at 2:28 a.m. Endeavour and its crew have embarked on the longest-enduring shuttle flight to the International Space Station, planned for 16 days. Landing is scheduled on March 26 at 8:33 p.m.

◆ **ISS Update:** The Automated Transfer Vehicle, or ATV, lifted off at 11:03 p.m. March 7 from the ArianeSpace launch site in Kourou, French Guiana, along the northern coast of South America. The ATV carries almost eight tons of equipment and spare parts as well as food, air, water and resupply fuel to the International Space Station.

All ATV solar arrays and appendages have been successfully deployed. Over the next two weeks the ATV will perform a series of test and checkout maneuvers away from the space station before docking, scheduled for April 3.

■ **It's All in the Numbers** — The estimated amount of John D. Rockefeller's philanthropy at the time of his death in 1937 was \$530 million. That amount would now equal about \$7.7 billion.

In contrast, \$30,000 is the amount Congress appropriated in 1843 for Samuel F. B. Morse to construct the first experimental telegraph line between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md.

New supply vehicle makes maiden voyage to space station



■ KSC Picnic Chili Cook-Off Entries Needed by March 18

Registrations for the chili cook-off are needed by March 18. Only eight teams will be allowed to compete. Go to the Web site at: <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/chili.html> to register. Rules, times and dates are on the same Web page. For more information, you can also contact John Jackson at John.T.Jackson-2@nasa.gov.

■ **Bridge Closure** — The Roy D. Bridges Jr. Bridge (NASA Causeway/SR-405) over the Banana River between the KSC Industrial Area and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station will be out of service to all traffic for repairs from March 22 until April 20. This closure will prevent all roadway traffic between the KSC Industrial Area and CCAFS on NASA Causeway, including emergency vehicles.

■ **March Cardiovascular Disease Screening** — The screening will be held from 7 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday at the Occupational Health Facility. No appointment is needed. You must fast for 12 hours prior to the screening (nothing but water).



The two-page questionnaire forms can be picked up at any medical facility or the forms can be downloaded from the SGS home page/forms at <http://ksccboc-forms/KSCForms2/ref/KSC28-1010V2.itr>. This form can be filled out online and then printed. In addition, the forms can be printed from a PDF version

at <http://hewp.ksc.nasa.gov/heart.cfm>. Please be sure to answer all the questions on the forms and print each page separately. If you have any questions, call 867-3414.

■ **Who Will Be FIRST?** Mark your calendar for March 14-15 for the Florida For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, or FIRST, Regional competition hosted at UCF. It's free, and you can see for yourself this exciting and inspiring event! For information on the Florida FIRST Regional, go to <http://www.floridafirstregional.com/>.

■ **NASA Science News** — New high-resolution radar maps of the moon's south pole reveal a fantastic land with peaks as high as Mt. McKinley and crater floors four times deeper than the Grand Canyon. NASA has used the data to create a dramatic VR movie of a moon landing from the point of view of an astronaut. You can read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/29feb_radarmoon.htm?list947891.

■ **Can't Find Countdown on the Web** — If you have used a bookmark or saved a link to Countdown on the Web but now get an error message, please note the URL has changed slightly. The correct Web address is given in the box below.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find Countdown on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.